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COMMITTEES:
CONSUMER AND EMPLOYEE
COMMERCE

December 19, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a state legislator of a rural district in Tennessee, I am concerned about the lack of access to wireless broadband and the disparity between the rural and urban areas access to information. I am writing today regarding LightSquared's pending mobile broadband network and the Global Positioning System (GPS).

As you are aware, one of our nation's most pressing priorities is the immediate need for more spectrum capacity purposed for mobile wireless broadband. The rising use and continued innovation of mobile devices requiring wireless broadband in the coming years threatens to overwhelm the capacity currently offered by wireless providers. Responding to this challenge is essential to American economic growth through the leveraging of information technology and telecommunications capabilities.

LightSquared's pending network in L-band spectrum would help address this challenge by creating a new national mobile broadband wholesaler with next-generation LTE technology, to be constructed with private funds. The Commission has correctly urged the company to plan for an aggressive buildout with a mandate to cover at least 260 million Americans by 2015.

I also commend the Commission for withholding final approval of LightSquared's launch pending full study and satisfactory resolution of the GPS interference problem. GPS is relied upon by tens of millions of American businesses and consumers. It is essential to national security, aviation and public safety. GPS is a national asset that must not be weakened.

I urge you to make it a top priority to help facilitate a technical solution that would solve the interference issue in the L-Band, allowing for expanded mobile broadband infrastructure while also protecting GPS. I am confident that a scientific solution can be found because America's ingenuity remains one her greatest assets. Indeed, recent news articles have reported on the development of new GPS receivers that block out interference from LightSquared's signal. Please continue to work toward a practical and just solution that benefits all Americans and Tennesseans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Matlock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jimmy Matlock
State Representative